

# Letters to the Editor

Editor, Torrance Press:

I'm writing this letter hoping that it will help the "disgusted wife" who wrote in last week about the steelworkers walk-out. She may not accept this help, but, I feel she needs it to open her eyes.

Apparently, she has not been a wife of a steelworker for too long a time, or her husband has not been working for Columbia in the period when there was no union. If she believes that the steelworkers union has not done anything for its members, she is deceiving no one but herself. Not only have the wages more than doubled, but the whole community has prospered along with the workers. Only when the workers have money to spend can Torrance prosper. Columbia Steel by no stretch of imagination can be said to spend its profits in Torrance.

### UNION GAINS

As I look around my house today I can see many things we did not have before the members of the union made gains. These things we once couldn't afford. We have comforts and conveniences that we would never have had on the meager wages that the men would be making were it not for their union. We're better off and our children are better provided for.

When any member of the family has to go to the hospital, the bill is paid for by the insurance union won for us. And my husband can look to the future with some hope of retiring on a pension also won by the union. Columbia gave none of these without a strike.

I don't claim to be a smart woman, but I know from hard

experience that prices go up long before wage raises are asked for. So it isn't the unions that are causing inflation. I too hate high taxes, but I know someone has to pay for our defense program against Communism, or isn't the "Thoroughly disgusted wife" concerned about world Communism?

### 'FAT SALARIES'

She also is alarmed at the "fat salaries from due dollars paid into unions." These salaries, my dear, compare in no way with the money paid by companies to find ways and means of getting more work out of your husband and mine for less pay. If our husband is a member, he knows that the dues are not paid during strikes and that they have not increased for years but are fixed by his vote at two dollars a month.

If I recall correctly, there were but two or three strikes since this plant started and the lost time from these 'was far less than would have been lost if the jobs were not made secure by a union contract.

Which brings me to the present trouble our men are having. You, Mrs. X, seem to know a great deal too much about past records of workers at Columbia. You make statements about two innocent workers who were discharged by the company. (They are innocent until proven guilty in America.) One of these might well have been your husband or mine. I'd certainly want to see my husband receive fair treatment and I'm sure you wish the same for yours.

### PRINCIPLE FIGHT

I think it's a noble act of brotherhood on the part of the members of the union to sacrifice their earnings to fight for a principle. You see, Mrs. X, if we didn't fight for our rights, Hitler would now rule the world and Stalin might well be the dictator of this country.

I, too, am denied an income for my family, but I'm proudly sticking by my husband because he's right and he's fighting for what he knows is right. That's American. When we were married I promised to live up to my part of the bargain. I manage the house, my husband earns the money with his work. I know best what goes on in my kitchen, he knows best what goes on at Columbia. I don't attend union meetings, he does. My advice to you is to try that formula. And, when this dispute is over, you will be secure in knowing that Columbia can't fire your husband (or any other wife's husband) without reckoning with

## Partners Lose More than \$500

"If anyone else wants to break in at the Aetna Auto and Truck Parts, located at 441 E. Carson Street, please let us know, and we will furnish them with a key rather than have our locks cut," Fred Buchner, one of the owners of the establishment, said in an ironic tone.

Buckner said that he and his partner, Roubin Blindel, lost in the neighborhood of \$500 at his business location, he reported, when someone cut barbed wire in back of his place, cut both the chain and locks open on the back fence, and cut two locks on the building.

Aetna Auto is located on a little over an acre of ground.

"We know we lost 25 radiators and 30 to 40 batteries," said Buckner.

He said that it is difficult to keep a running inventory.

"You know," said Buckner, "this business is like a woman with ten children. You may see chocolate on a child's face, but you don't know how much he has eaten."

Buckner said that this is about the fourth time that his business has been clipped by roving burglars.

## Double Session Figures Shown

Latest double-day session figures released by the Board of Education showed that 587 students need more school housing. Shortages exist at four local schools. Double-day sessions are broken down as follows:

Fern Avenue .....	255
Walteria .....	58
Torrance Elementary ...	49
Seaside .....	225

the other workers, brothers in a union.

A Proud Wife of a Union Steelworker,  
Signed T. B.

## Columbia

(Continued from Page One)  
their name be stricken from the petition.

"That made the vote unnecessary," Teers explained. "We are united on seeing this fight through to the end," he said. Columbia must rehire the two workers, or we won't return to our jobs."

Teers referred to the two workers fired by the Company which caused the walkout three weeks ago.

While the Union insisted that there would be no compromise on the firing of the two workers, U. S. Steel officials said that their hands were tied.

"We can't negotiate with the Union while the work stoppage exists," said Frank Burns. "Both the walkout at Columbia and at the Pittsburgh plant are in direct violation of the provisions of the labor agreement which provide that there be no strikes, work stoppages, interruption or impeding of work."

Burns said that the production of 4000 tons of steel a week are being lost. The Pittsburgh walk-out eliminates 1300 tons for each day the mill stands idle, he further revealed.

In the meantime, Teers said that he received a letter from Union local 1440 at Pittsburgh steel mill. It said in part:

"We will give Columbia and Pittsburgh a little demonstration Tuesday morning, Jan. 22 in protest for their arbitrary action against your members. Keep your chin up. Your local is not only fighting for themselves but for every steel local, and we know it. Rest assured, and we will back you and not just in idle talk."

The letter was signed: William L. Milano, financial secretary, local 1440, Pittsburgh, California.

In the same letter Milano included a check for \$500. Previously, the Union had received a \$100 check from Tidwell's Grocery Clerk's Union.

"Other checks are coming in from Unions all over the Country," Teers said.

Merchants, the 1100 workers, and United States Steel all admitted that economically their losses were beginning to mount. This week, everyone was hoping that the "work stoppage" would end soon.

## Captive

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if the peace talks come to a peaceful settlement.

"I'm hoping that all of you spend a merry Xmas and a Happy New Year. The Chinese Volunteers are giving us a party today. The GIs are putting on a show for us tomorrow. We're getting plenty of chow, too; so don't worry 'nuh."

### WINE TONIGHT

"Oh, yes, we're getting some wine tonight, so I guess we'll have a good time."

"We were shown a USSR picture the other night. The name of it was 'The Fall of Berlin.' It was really good. A lot of good-looking girls in the movie, too. It made me homesick. I sure hope they settle this war soon."

"We're also having church services Xmas. I really thank the Chinese for letting us have that. As I'm sitting here I'm watching the rest of the guys in my squad write. Some of them are writing without any trouble. Some sit and think awhile. They all got that same look, sort of sad look. It's always like that when a man thinks of home."

### BACK HOME

"I'll bet everything looks nice back home—all kinds of lights and decorations. I can just see it now, but I just

can't reach it. But I will some day. How's everybody? In good health I hope.

"Kiss the kids for me. I'll bet they're really big by now, walking all over the place, getting into trouble. Are there a lot of new songs out?"

### MISS MUSIC

"I really miss music. I'm running out of words to write, can't think of what to say in this letter."

"What's Angel (14-year-old brother) doing? I miss him a lot. I keep thinking: What if another war should break out and he had to go fight. I just pray to God that he does not have to suffer the wounds that war brings. The destruction and death that it brings—alive one day—dead the next. I hope he never sees this."

"Love, 'DANNY.'  
P.S. God Bless all of you."

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## YWCA

(Continued from Page One)  
of the activities that took place at this affair.

Officers of the Business and Professional Women's Club of Torrance are Zada Ramsey, president; Lucille Stroh, first vice-president; Maud Deininger, second vice-president; Jean Da-

vis, recording secretary; Clara Conner, treasurer; Evelyn Lynch, corresponding secretary; and Helen Parish, auditor.

Heads of committees for the club are Helen Williams, news service; Laddie Johnson, radio and television; Dorothy Rogers, emblem chairman; Virginia Beck, parliamentarian; Maud Deininger, civilian defense; and music chairman, Mollie Marshall.

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